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ZNR UUUUU ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4344
INFO RUCNAFG/AFGHANISTAN COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ USCENCOM MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RHEHAAA/NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

UNCLAS KABUL 001440

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

DEPT FOR SCA/FO, SCA/A
NSC FOR JWOOD
OSD FOR SHIVERS
CG CJTF-101, POLAD, JICCENT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [AF](#)

SUBJECT: Afghan Presidential Candidates

¶1. (U) Provided below, for addressees' reference, is a list of declared and likely presidential candidates. Addressees should take care when dealing with those listed not to convey the misimpression of USG endorsement for a particular candidacy. The list is not exhaustive; it is subject to change. We include minimal bio information only for those candidates who would not be well known to addressees.

¶2. (SBU) Declared and Likely Presidential Candidates

* President Karzai

* Yunous Qanooni - Speaker of the Lower House

* Ali Ahmad Jalali - Minister of Interior from January 2003 to September 2005; Pashtun

* Mustafa Zahir - Grandson of the late King Zahir Shah; director of the Afghan Environmental Protection Department.

* Dr. Anwarulhaq Ahadi - Minister of Finance and head of the Afghan Millat Party; Pashtun

* Mohammad Hanif Atmar - Minister of Education; Pashtun

* Dr. Abdullah Abdullah - Foreign Minister from 2001 to 2006; strongly associated with Panjshiri Tajiks.

* Edayat Amin Arsallah - Senior Minister in the Karzai cabinet

* Mawlawi Abdul Aziz Ahmadzai - An Ahmadzai tribe Pashtun, who fought against the Soviets; chairman of the Kabul Provincial Council, religiously oriented.

* Engineer Ehsanullah Bayat - Owner of the AWCC cell phone company and Ariana TV station, founder of the Bayat Foundation, a charity.

* Zabiullah Ghazi Nooristani - Leader of the Justice and Development Party of Afghanistan; probable U.S. green card holder.

* Ashraf Ghani - Academic and former World Bank executive; finance minister in the Afghan interim government.

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